

Corporation of London.



OPENING OF
NEW PUBLIC SLAUGHTERHOUSES
AND
CHILL ROOMS,

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, ISLINGTON,

BY THE

Rt. Hon. Sir T. VEZEY STRONG,
Lord Mayor,

ACCOMPANIED BY

Alderman C. JOHNSTON,

AND

H. C. BUCKINGHAM, Esq.,

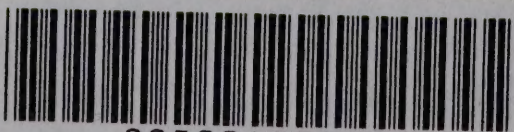
} *Sheriffs.*

FRIDAY, 9th DECEMBER, 1910.

D. GEORGE COLLINS, Esq.,

Chairman,

Cattle Markets Committee.



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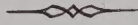
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BUFFET.



Tea.

Coffee.

Brown and White Bread and Butter.



Sandwiches.

Foie Gras.

Anchovy.

Eggs and Cress.

Ham.

Tongue.



Cakes.

Petit Fours.

Macaroons.

Fancy Gateaux.

Derbyshires, etc.



Brandy.

Whiskey.

Minerals.

Lemonade.



Champagne :

Deutz and Geldermann Gold Lac.

RING & BRYMER.

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PUBLIC SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

THE new **Sheep Slaughterhouse** to be opened by the Lord Mayor, and the **Beast Slaughterhouses**, the Foundation Stone of which is to be laid by the Chairman, are extensions of the Public Slaughterhouses provided by the Corporation in 1907, and intended not only to replace the private Slaughterhouses which formerly existed on the site, but to provide in anticipation for increasing demands for facilities in the North of London owing to the constantly decreasing number of private Slaughterhouses, and their probable final extinction at no distant date.

The **Chill Rooms**, which will also be opened by the Lord Mayor, are provided as an accessory to the Slaughterhouses, and to meet present-day requirements of the Trade.

In the planning of the Slaughterhouses the views of the Trade have been met as far as is consistent with the main object in view, namely, slaughtering under proper supervision, and the expert examination of the carcasses, together with the viscera and organs, immediately after slaughter, as the only method of safeguarding the detection of disease.

The group of Public Slaughterhouses when completed, together with the Chill Rooms, will have entailed an expenditure of upwards of £60,000, and while not calculated to prove a remunerative undertaking, are provided by the

Corporation as the Market Authority for the Metropolis in the interests of Sanitation and the Food Supply of the People.

The Buildings have been erected from the designs and under the directions of Mr. Sydney Perks, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., the City Surveyor, and are so planned that they can be extended without serious alterations.

The Public Slaughterhouses are the first to be provided in London, and as regards construction and fittings are believed to embrace the best features of any similar buildings in this country or on the Continent, and no expense has been spared to this end.

To ensure cleanliness the walls are lined with glazed bricks, which will be constantly scoured with hot and cold water, and the buildings are paved with blue pennant stone, which permits of frequent and effective flushing.

In the case of Beasts, the animals are lifted after slaughter by electric hoists, the first of their kind in England, though in use in many abattoirs in America and on the Continent.

Every provision has been made for the humane and expert slaughtering of animals and to avoid unnecessary suffering.

The number of animals slaughtered in the Public Slaughterhouses in the year 1909 was 38,040 Cattle,

97,530 Sheep, 8,178 Calves, 42,439 Pigs, or a total of 186,187, and this total has already been exceeded in the current year.

The head charges for the use of the Slaughterhouses are :

Cattle	-	1s. 6d.	Sheep	-	-	2d.	
Calves	-	-	4d.	Pigs	-	-	6d.

An unique feature in connection with the Slaughterhouses is the Destructor House, in which is installed a Podewil apparatus or Destructor. This is a German invention, and, while in extensive use on the Continent, has been for the first time introduced into England.

All condemned meat, as well as the offal from the Slaughterhouses, is placed in a large cylinder, and is subjected for some hours to steam at a pressure of about 65 lbs. The cylinder is then made to rotate, and the bones, &c., are crushed by heavy rollers, the product, in the shape of dry soft brown powder, finding a ready market as a fertiliser.

The Slaughterhouses are under the charge of Mr. F. Gorden Barnes, M.R.C.V.S., who is assisted by qualified Inspectors in the work of inspection, which is carried out continuously by night and day when the Slaughterhouses are in use.

The buildings are lighted by gas and electricity, the current being obtained from the Islington Borough Council.

The Contractors for the erection of the new Slaughter-houses are Messrs. W. Johnson & Co., Limited, and for the Refrigerating Plant, the Haslam Foundry and Engineering Company, Limited.

THE CORPORATION MARKETS.

In ancient times the erection of Markets and Fairs formed a part of the King's prerogative, and none could exist except by direct grant from the Crown. Thus Henry III. covenanted by Charter with the City of London not to grant permission to anyone else to set up a Market within a radius of seven miles from the City, and this privilege was subsequently confirmed by a Charter granted in the first year of the reign of Edward III., dated 6th March, 1326.

While the Corporation has from time to time waived its rights in order to permit of the establishment of markets in London by private enterprise where a demand apparently existed, its franchises as the Market Authority for London have been frequently recognised and confirmed in recent years by Acts of Parliament and decisions of the High Courts of Justice.

The following are brief particulars of Cattle Markets and the Dead Meat Market owned by the Corporation, with some statistics of their business.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, ISLINGTON.

The live Cattle Market was formerly held at Smithfield, and was moved to its present site, and formally opened by the late Prince Consort, on the 13th June, 1855.

Up to 1870 animals from foreign countries were received at this Market without restriction, but in 1869 the Government, with a view of preventing the introduction into Great Britain of contagious diseases among animals, passed an Act restricting the landing of animals from scheduled countries to duly authorised foreign animal wharves, where they were to be slaughtered.

The effect of this Act, while largely increasing the foreign cattle trade, was to seriously diminish the supplies to the Metropolitan Cattle Market. Other reasons which operate against the growth of the Market are:—

- i. The heavy charges of Railway Companies for the carriage of live animals.
- ii. The establishment of local markets within a short distance of London.
- iii. The absence of any compensation to owners of carcasses seized as affected with tuberculosis, where admittedly the presence of disease was not apparent in the animal when alive.
- iv. The ever-increasing development of the chilled and frozen meat trade.

The business of the Market is directly affected by the trade of the Foreign Cattle Market at Deptford, and a shortage of supplies at that Market, such as now prevails, increases the demand at the Metropolitan Cattle Market.

The animals exposed for sale in the Market are for the most part consigned to agents or salesmen by farmers, graziers and country dealers, and are sold on commission either to butchers for slaughter or as store stock to farmers or graziers.

The following were the numbers consigned to the Market for sale during the year 1909 :—

Beasts	-	-	-	-	-	61,763
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	356,417
Calves	-	-	-	-	-	1,201
Pigs	-	-	-	-	-	20
Other animals	-	-	-	-	-	6,214
						425,615

and the numbers for the present year will probably show an increase on these figures.

The supply of pigs for sale has now altogether ceased, owing to the steps which the Board of Agriculture have felt it necessary to take to safeguard the spread of infection from Swine Fever.

From the early days of the Market there grew up a General or Pedlars' Market, on other than the days appointed for the sale of cattle, and by the Metropolitan Market Act of 1896 this market became recognised and is now held every Friday throughout the year. The number of vendors and the variety of their wares continues to increase.

FOREIGN CATTLE MARKET.

The Foreign Cattle Market at Deptford was provided by the Corporation as a Foreign Animals Wharf, under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act, 1869, for the reception, sale, and slaughter of animals from countries where foot-and-mouth disease was known or suspected to exist. It stands upon the site of the old Admiralty Dockyard, where Peter the Great learnt the art of shipbuilding, and was opened for public use in December, 1871.

The Lairs are capable of accommodating 8,500 cattle and 20,000 sheep, and chill rooms are provided with hanging space for 4,500 sides of beef.

All animals landed at the Market must be slaughtered within ten days, exclusive of the day of landing.

At the present time animals can only be landed from certain ports in the United States and from Canada, which has had the effect of reducing supplies by nearly 2,000 head of cattle weekly.

The trade of the Market is now restricted to a few shippers of States and Canadian cattle, and there is not, therefore, the competition which formerly existed. The effect of the restrictions has also very seriously affected employment locally in connection with the business of the Market, and in the many trades dealing with the by-products of animals, and there is the consequent further loss of cheap food for the people. It is estimated that the edible offal of a bullock provides a meal for 40 people, and that of a sheep for 8 people.

The steam vessels carrying cattle for the most part discharge at the Market Jetties, the landing accommodation permitting of three vessels being berthed and unloaded at the same time. An average time for landing 500 cattle from a ship is 20 minutes.

For the purpose of the transhipment of cattle to the Market from large vessels discharging at points lower down the River, three steam vessels have been provided by the Corporation, and are exclusively employed in this service.

The number of cattle landed and slaughtered at the Market in 1909 was 122,223.

THE LONDON CENTRAL MARKETS, SMITHFIELD.

The Markets cover an area of about 8 acres and stand on the site of a former Live Cattle Market.

The Markets are wholesale for Meat, Poultry, and Provisions, with Sections for the sale, wholesale and retail, of Vegetables and Fish.

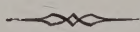
During the last twenty years there has been a marked annual increase in the quantity of imported meat received, and a falling off in home-killed, a result largely due to the development of Cold Storage processes.

Thus in 1909, out of a total supply of 420,060 tons of meat, poultry and provisions, 95,287 tons, or 22·7 per cent., only was produced in the United Kingdom; 44,637 tons represent supplies raised and fattened in North America, but slaughtered in the United Kingdom, and the remainder Colonial, American and other foreign produce.

The average daily delivery to the Market throughout the year 1909, omitting Sundays and Bank Holidays, was 1,350 tons—the heaviest day being the 20th December with 3,918 tons.

The Corporation are also the owners of Billingsgate and Leadenhall Markets, and the freeholders of Spitalfields Market.

CATTLE MARKETS COMMITTEE.



Chairman :

D. GEORGE COLLINS.

Aldermen :

Sir Walter Wilkin, K.C.M.G.

Sir George F. Faudel-Phillips,
Bart., G.C.I.E.

Sir David Burnett, Knt.

Sir T. Vansittart Bowater, Knt.

Sir Charles Cheers Wakefield, Knt.

Sir George Joseph Woodman, Knt.

Commoners :

Samuel Alderton

Edward Ardley

Colonel John William Benningfield

George Josiah Berridge

George Billings

Edgar Edwin Bond

Thomas Black Callard

Thomas Rodolphus Croger

James William Domoney

Robert Dyas

Colonel Vickers Dunfee

Thomas Ellis

George Fraenkel

Charles Game

Thomas Goldney

Carl Hentschel

Edward Rufus Hitchins

Edward Hughes

Clarence Hayden

Cecil Frederick Joseph Jennings
(*late Chairman*)

Valentine I. R. Longman

Capt. Lewis Graham Marcus

James Perkins, F.R.G.S.

Thomas Robinson

Horace Davies Singer

Henry Pepys Squire

Edward Seaman

Cuthbert Wilfrid Whitaker, M.A.

